

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

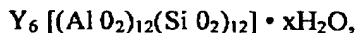
1. (currently amended) A fuel cell system comprising at least one of flow passages and/or flow chambers which conduct moist gases to or from a fuel cell in operation, said at least one of said flow passages or flow chambers having an inner side confronting said gases and wherein ~~which~~ at least ~~ain~~ part of ~~the flow passages and/or flow chambers are~~ is provided with a coating which, at low temperatures, takes up water in distributed form from said flow passages or flow chambers and releases the water, at least in part, again back to said flow passages or flow chambers at higher temperatures.

2. (currently amended) A fuel cell system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the coating is a silicate with the general formula:



where $X = Li, Na, K, Rb, \text{ or } Cs$ and x is an integer and the water is taken up-absorbed in the pores of the coating ~~which have sizes in the nanometer range~~.

3. (currently amended) A fuel cell system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the coating is a silicate with the general formula:



where $Y = Be, Mg, Ca, Sr, \text{ or } Ba$, and x is an integer and the water is taken up-absorbed in the pores of the coating ~~which have sizes in the nanometer range~~.

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4. (currently amended) A fuel cell system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the coating ~~comprises~~ is selected from the group consisting of alkaline and alkaline earth aluminum silicates, ~~i.e. so-called zeolites.~~

5. (original) A fuel cell system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the coating comprises polysiloxane.

6. (currently amended) A fuel cell system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the coating comprises a polymer ~~which is provided with~~ having acid radicals or alkaline radicals which have a chemical affinity for water.

7. (original) A fuel cell system in accordance with claim 6, wherein the polymer is a modified polyethylene glycol.

8. (currently amended) A fuel cell system in accordance with claim 1 ~~having a hydrogen circuit,~~ wherein the coating is on said inner side of said flow passages or flow chambers that define an ~~present at the inner side of the tubes and the passages which are present at the~~ anode side of the said fuel cells.

9. (currently amended) A fuel cell system in accordance with claim 1 ~~having a hydrogen circuit,~~ wherein the coating is on said inner side of said flow passages or flow chambers that define a ~~located at the inner side of the tubes and the passages which are present at the~~ cathode side of the said fuel cells.

10 - 12 (withdrawn)